

CLAIMS

## WE CLAIM:

- 1        1. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called  
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an  
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:  
4        receiving said call intended for said called party;  
5        sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party  
6 to said call; and  
7        receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received  
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call.
- 1        2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of in response to said call  
2 disposition election, routing said call to said data terminal via said telephone line so that said  
3 calling party may communicate with said called party.
- 1        3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of packetizing telephone voice  
2 signals received from said calling party for transmission to said data terminal.
- 1        4. The method of claims 2 further comprising the step of generating telephone voice  
2 signals based on packetized speech signals received from said data terminal.
- 1        5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, in response to said call  
2 disposition election, routing said call to a voice mail system.
- 1        6. The method of claim 1, wherein in response to said call disposition election, said  
2 call is not routed to said data terminal.

1           7. The method of claim 6 wherein said call is terminated.

1           8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1           9. The method of claim 8 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1           10. The method of claim 8 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1           11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1           12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is not invoked.

1           13. The method of claim 1 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1           14. The method of claim 1 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1           15. The method of claim 14 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

1        16. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called  
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an  
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4        receiving said call intended for said called party;

5        sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party  
6 to said call;

7        receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received  
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9        in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to said data terminal via  
10 said telephone line so that said calling party may communicate with said called party.

1        17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of packetizing telephone  
2 voice signals received from said calling party for transmission to said data terminal.

1        18. The method of claims 16 further comprising the step of generating telephone  
2 voice signals based on packetized speech signals received from said data terminal.

1        19. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1        20. The method of claim 19 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1        21. The method of claim 19 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1        22. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1        23. The method of claim 16 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1        24. The method of claim 16 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1        25. The method of claim 24 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

1        26. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called  
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an  
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4        receiving said call intended for said called party;

5        sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party  
6 to said call;

7        receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received  
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9        in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to a voice mail system.

1        27. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1        28. The method of claim 27 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1        29. The method of claim 27 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1        30. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1        31. The method of claim 26 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1        32. The method of claim 26 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1        33. The method of claim 32 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

1        34. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a  
2 called party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an  
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4        receiving said call intended for said called party;

5        sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party  
6 to said call;

7        receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received  
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9 in response to said call disposition election, initiating the termination of said call.

1 35. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of sending a message to a  
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to  
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1 36. The method of claim 35 wherein said message is sent in response to said data  
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1 37. The method of claim 35 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is  
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1 38. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of sending a message to said  
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1 39. The method of claim 34 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1 40. The method of claim 34 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said  
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1 41. The method of claim 40 wherein said call disposition options include one or more  
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to  
3 a voice mail system.

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